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MINUTES
OF A
GENERAL CONFERENCE
OF THE MEMBERS OF THE
NEW CHURCH,
SIGNIFIED BY THE
NEW JERUSALEM
IN THE
REVELATION:

Held in GREAT EAST CHEAP, LONDON;

From the 5th to the 7th of *April*, 1790.

L O N D O N:

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1790.



GENERAL LETTER.

*The Members of the NEW JERUSALEM
CHURCH, assembled in General Con-
ference, in Great East Cheap, London,
from the 5th to the 7th of April, 1790.*

*To all their Brethren of the New Dis-
pensation.*

IT is with particular Pleasure we again
address all the Lovers of genuine Truth,
on a Subject of such great Importance as the
Extension and Establishment of the heavenly
Doctrines of the New Jerusalem. The favor-
able Reception which the thinking Part of
Mankind now begin to give them, both in
this and other Countries, we trust is an happy
Omen of the Revival of true Christianity;
the rational Principles of which seem hereto-
fore to have been but little understood. May
the Light of Truth continue to spread itself
over the whole Earth.

This is now the second Annual Conference of the New Church, held for the Purpose of it's further Promotion and Establishment. And when we consider from how many different Persuasions and Denominations of Religion the greater Part of us have been brought to see the Truth, it is really Matter of Astonishment to observe the Harmony and Union of Sentiment that has prevailed in all our Consultations, which we pray may be directed, by the Divine Providence of the Lord, to the real Welfare and Prosperity of his New Church.

It has long appeared necessary to prepare a Catechism for the Instruction of the rising Generation; and the more we reflected on the Subject, the more we were convinced, that no Time ought to be lost in providing Means suited to the Capacity of Children, whereby they may be gradually introduced to the true Knowledge of the Lord, and their Infant Minds trained betimes to the Love and Practice of his holy Commandments. This End, we trust, will through Divine Mercy be in some Degree promoted by the printed CATECHISM which accompanies this Letter.

Herewith you will also receive the MINUTES OF CONFERENCE, which will inform you of the Nature of our Proceedings, and the particular Subjects

GENERAL LETTER.

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Subjects we were led to deliberate upon. May a Divine Blessing attend these, and the Endeavours of all others who are engaged in the same Cause, viz. of promoting the Welfare and Prosperity of the New Church.

Signed in Behalf of the Conference, by

ROBERT JACKSON.

JAMES HINDMARSH.

MANOAH SIBLY.

ROBERT HINDMARSH.

THOMAS WRIGHT.

HENRY PECKITT.

JAMES CRUDEN.

Great East Cheap, London.

April 12, 1790.

...we were led to believe upon a ...
...the ... and the ...
... who are ... in ...
... of ...



M I N U T E S
O F A
GENERAL CONFERENCE, &c.

MONDAY, *April 5, 1790.*

THIS Day a General Conference of the Members of the New Church met together, agreeable to the 32d Resolution of their last Conference.

After the Meeting was opened by Prayer by Mr. Proud, Mr. SAMUEL HANDS, of Birmingham, was unanimously chosen President; and Mr. FRANCIS LEICESTER, of London, Secretary.

The following Brethren were appointed as a Committee for expediting the Business of the present Conference, viz.

JOSEPH WRIGHT.
HENRY PECKITT.
JOSEPH PROUD.
ROBERT BEATSON.
JAMES CRUDEN.
WILLIAM HILL.
THOMAS WRIGHT.
JAMES HINDMARSH.
RICHARD THOMPSON.
JOHN WILLDON.
MANOAH SIBLY.
ROBERT JACKSON.

8 MINUTES OF A CONFERENCE, &c. 1790.

The Resolutions of the last Conference were then read, and confirmed.

Agreeable to the 11th Resolution, several Sketches of Catechisms were produced, and referred to the Committee to compare and incorporate them together, so as to be properly adapted to the Capacity of Children, as a Catechism for the Use of the New Church.

The Meeting then concluded with Prayer, and adjourned till Three o'Clock.

* * * *

Met agreeable to Adjournment, and the Meeting opened with Prayer.

Letters from various Societies and Members of the New Church, in different Parts of the Kingdom, were read, particularly

One from a Society at Birmingham.

Another from a Society at Kighley, in Yorkshire.

Another from Mr. Charles Harford, of Liverpool.

And another from Mr. Robert Green, of Hull, in Yorkshire.

The Conference judging, that Mr. Harford's Letter required a particular Answer, the Committee were directed to prepare the same, and lay it before them at their next Meeting.

Mr. Proud, from Norwich, informed the Conference, that, agreeable to the Request of many of his Brethren, he had composed a Number of Hymns for the particular Use of the New Church; and that he hoped, in a short Time, to have them ready for the Press.



This

MINUTES OF A CONFERENCE, &c. 1790.

4

This Intelligence gave much Satisfaction; and it was the unanimous Request of all present that the Hymns may consist of Praises and Glorifications only, and not of Prayer and Supplication; as Singing implies an *Elevation* of Mind, which is suited to an Act of *Praise*, but apparently inconsistent with the *Humiliation* requisite in *Prayer*.

The Meeting concluded with Prayer, and adjourned till To-morrow Morning, Nine o'Clock.

TUESDAY, April 6, 1790.

The Conference met, agreeable to Adjournment.

After Prayer, Mr. Harford's Letter was again read, and an Answer, drawn up by the Committee, unanimously approved.

A Letter having also been received from Mr. John Walker, of Liverpool, the Committee were impowered to return an Answer to the same.

Another Letter, written by Mr. Proud some Time previous to the Meeting of Conference, and containing certain Queries relative to the external Worship of the New Church, was also read; in Consequence of which the following Question was proposed to the Consideration of the Conference, "Whether a Form of Prayer ought, or ought not, to be used in religious Worship in the New Church?"

This Question, after being thoroughly canvassed, was determined in the Affirmative, without a dissentient Voice, for the following, among many others, which might be adduced as substantial Reasons:

1. Because

1. Because a Form of Prayer and Worship, if drawn from the Holy Word, and consistent with the genuine Sense thereof, is calculated to preserve the Doctrines of the New Church in their Purity, and is at the same Time a powerful Guard against the Introduction of any Herefy: For no Minister, after hearing or reading the Prayers of the Church, which have been approved of by a General Conference, is likely to ascend the Pulpit immediately, and pull down or destroy what has been already advanced in the preceding Part of the Worship.

2. Because the constant and regular Use of a proper Formula, in public Worship, has a Tendency to implant in the Minds of Children and young People true Ideas of the One Object of Divine Adoration, to familiarize them with the Word of God and his holy Commandments, and thus to lay the Foundation of their future spiritual Life on Christ alone, who is the Rock of Ages.

3. Because it has also a Tendency to confirm the Faith of those who are in the Use of it; as well as because it is an open Avowal, before the whole World, of the heavenly Doctrines of the New Jerusalem, and a full Proof, even in the Ultimates, of their actual Descent from Heaven to Earth.

The Meeting concluded with Prayer, and was adjourned till Three o'Clock.

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Met agreeable to Adjournment, and the Meeting opened with Prayer,

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The Catechism for the Use of the New Church, as prepared by the Committee, was read, and unanimously approved.

The Conference then proceeded as follows to revise the Service of the New Church, as used in London, Birmingham, and other Places, in Order to make such Alterations and Amendments as might appear necessary.

The Glorification at the Opening of the Service was read, and unanimously approved of.

The Address to the Congregation was referred to the Committee, to be altered and amended.

The Acknowledgment and Confession likewise referred to the Committee.

The Lord's Prayer referred to the Committee, and ordered to be translated literally from the Original Greek.

The Prayer for a Blessing to attend the Reading of the Holy Word, unanimously approved of as it now stands.

The Doxology passed unanimously.

The Thanksgiving unanimously passed, with some verbal Alterations.

The Prayer for the Prosperity of the New Church, referred to the Committee.

The Prayer for the King and Royal Family, unanimously approved of, with a few verbal Alterations.

The Prayer for the Parliament, referred to the Committee.

The Decalogue, or Ten Commandments, referred to the Committee, and ordered to be literally translated from the Original Hebrew.

The Comment after the Decalogue, unanimously approved.

The

12 MINUTES OF A CONFERENCE, &c. 1790.

The Prayer for the Bishops, Priests, &c. of the Old Church, passed unanimously.

The Creed of the New Church, passed unanimously, with some Additions.

The Prayer for all Conditions of Men, referred to the Committee.

The concluding Prayer also referred to the Committee.

The Benediction passed unanimously.

Mr. James Hindmarsh gave Notice, that it was his Intention the Day following to propose Mr. Joseph Wright, of Kighley, in Yorkshire, and Mr. Manoah Sibly, of London, as Persons proper to be ordained Ministers of the New Church.

The Meeting then concluded with Prayer, and adjourned till To-morrow Morning, Eleven o'Clock.

WEDNESDAY, *April 7*, 1790.

Met according to Appointment, and the Meeting opened with the Lord's Prayer.

The Committee laid before the Conference the following Parts of the Service, which they had been appointed to examine and prepare.

The Minister's Address to the Congregation, as corrected, was read, and passed unanimously.

The Acknowledgment and Confession, passed unanimously with Alterations.

A literal Translation of the Lord's Prayer from the Original Greek, was read, and unanimously approved of.

The Prayer for the Prosperity of the New Church, read, and passed unanimously, with only one verbal Alteration.

The Committee recommended to the Conference, that the Prayer for the Parliament be incorporated with that for the King and Royal Family. Ordered.

The Decalogue, as made conformable to the Original in the 20th Chapter of Exodus, passed unanimously. The Responses at the End of each Commandment, being judged an Interruption to the Solemnity of this Part of the Service, are ordered to be discontinued in future, and only one used after the Tenth Commandment.

The Prayer for all Conditions of Men, with Amendments, was read, and unanimously approved of.

The concluding Prayer read, and unanimously agreed to omit it, and in it's Stead conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

After Prayer the Conference adjourned till Four o'Clock.

* * * *

The Meeting opened again, agreeable to Appointment, with the Lord's Prayer.

The Prayer for the King, Parliament, and all Persons under Authority, being incorporated together, was read, and unanimously passed.

The Order of Worship was also regulated, and approved.

The Conference then proceeded to revise the Forms for the Administration of Baptism and the Holy Supper.

It

It was unanimously agreed, that, in Order to open the Gates of the New Jerusalem as wide as possible, the only Conditions of Admission by Baptism be an Acknowledgment of the two Essentials of the New Church, which were ordered to be inserted in the two Forms of Baptism, instead of the Creed.

These two Essentials are as follow : I. That God is One both in Essence and in Person, in whom is a Divine Trinity, consisting of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and that the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ is He. II. That in Order to Salvation Man must live a Life according to the Ten Commandments, by shunning Evils as Sins against God.

The Forms of Baptism and the Lord's Supper were read, corrected, and passed unanimously.

Agreeable to Notice the preceding Day, Mr. James Hindmarsh proposed Mr. Joseph Wright and Mr. Manoah Sibly as proper Persons to be ordained Ministers of the New Church. This was seconded by Mr. Richard Thompson, and unanimously agreed to by all present.

A Motion was made by Mr. Henry Peckitt, and seconded by Mr. Thomas Wright, that a Committee be appointed to see the Regulations and Amendments, made in this Conference, put into Execution, and also to draw up a general Letter to the different Societies in the Country to accompany the Minutes of the Conference.

The following Persons were accordingly appointed as a Committee for the above Purposes :

ROBERT JACKSON.

THOMAS WRIGHT.



JAMES

JAMES HINDMARSH.
HENRY PECKITT.
ROBERT HINDMARSH.
JAMES CRUDEN.
MANOAH SIBLY.

Resolved, that a General Conference be, by the Divine Mercy of the Lord, again held in London, on Easter Monday next, the 25th of April, 1791, to take into Consideration such other Things as may appear necessary for the Instruction of Children, and the further Promotion and Establishment of the New Church.

Signed in Behalf of the New Jerusalem Church, at their General Annual Conference, by

SAMUEL HANDS, of Birmingham, *President*.
FRANCIS LEICESTER, of London, *Secretary*.
JOSEPH WRIGHT, of Kighley, in Yorkshire.
HENRY PECKITT, of London.
JOSEPH PROUD, of Norwich.
ROBERT BEATSON, of Rotherham, in
Yorkshire.
JAMES CRUDEN, late of America.
WILLIAM HILL, of London.
THOMAS WRIGHT, of London.
JAMES HINDMARSH, of London.
RICHARD THOMPSON, of London.
JOHN WILLDON, of London.
MANOAH SIBLY, of London.
ROBERT JACKSON, late of Jamaica.

The COMMITTEE.

Great East Cheap, London.

April 7, 1790.



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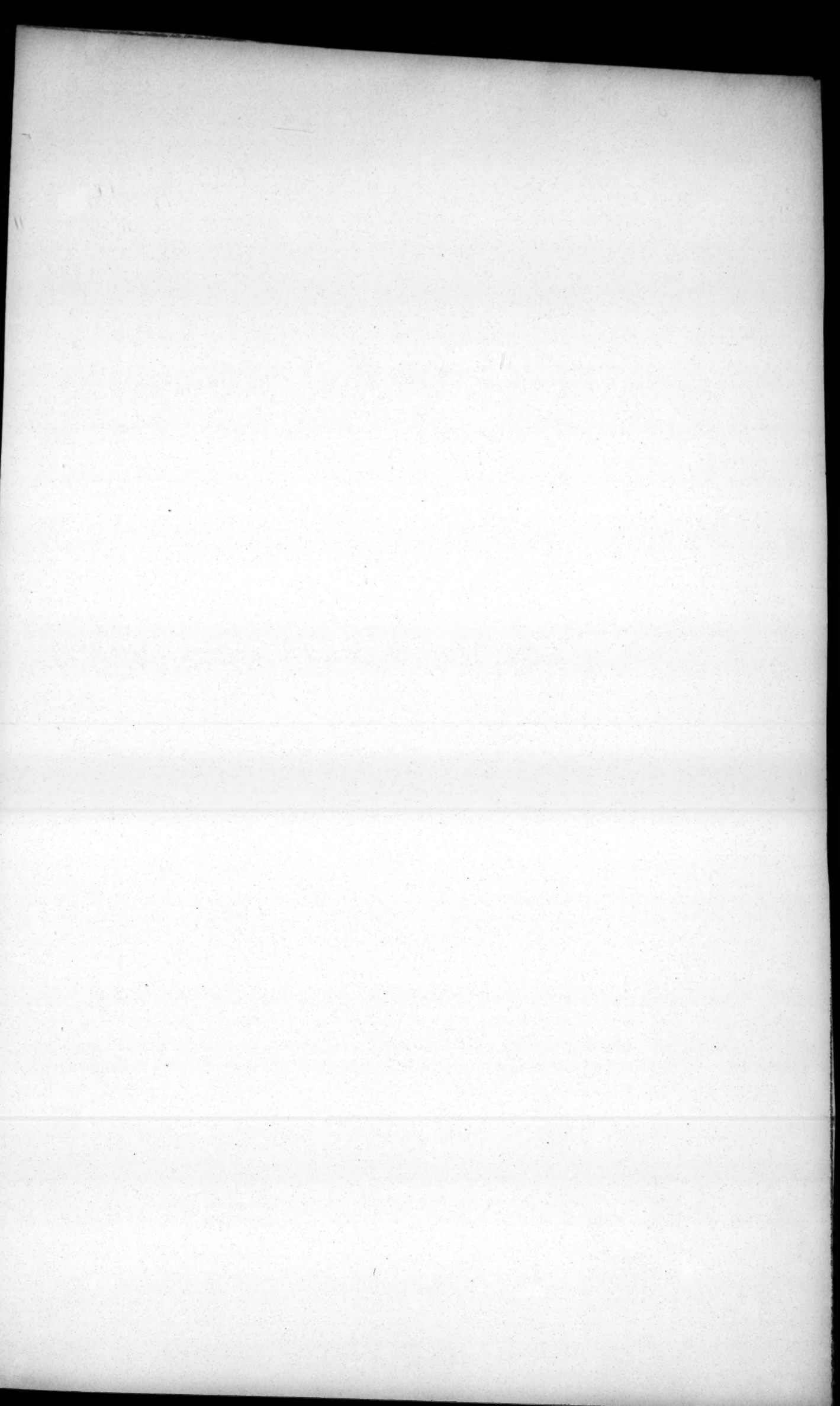
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The image shows a dark, mottled surface with a high degree of texture. It appears to be a scan of a physical object, possibly a book cover or endpaper, which has been heavily degraded or is simply very old and worn. The surface is covered in a dense pattern of small, light-colored specks, fibers, and larger irregular patches of discoloration. The overall color is a dark, grainy grey or black, with no discernible text or figures.



5

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